General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 106

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/490)*]

70/179. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development,

Reiterating its concern that, despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, trafficking in persons remains one of the grave challenges facing the international community, which also impairs the enjoyment of human rights and needs a more concerted collective and comprehensive international response,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] which reaffirms the commitment by Member States to take immediate and effective measures to, inter alia, eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking,

Reaffirming the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit,[2] the 2005 World Summit[3] and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010,[4] to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[5] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

[4] See resolution 65/1.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

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Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[6] which provided the definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[7] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[8]

Taking note of the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(*a*) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(*b*) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(*c*) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(*d*) To promote a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approach in addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect its victims and prosecute its perpetrators,

(*e*) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(*f*) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Recalling its resolutions 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 64/178 of 18 December 2009, 67/190 of 20 December 2012 and 68/192 of 18 December 2013 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and other relevant General Assembly resolutions on trafficking in persons,[9]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/23 of 21 July 2015 on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons,

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[6] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[7] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[8] Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

[9] Resolutions 55/67, 58/137, 59/166, 61/144, 63/156 and 63/194.

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 23/5 of 13 June 2013, entitled "Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: efforts to combat human trafficking in supply chains of businesses",[10] and other relevant resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons,

Taking note of the reference to preventing and countering trafficking in persons and the victim-oriented approach in the context of addressing trafficking in persons in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,[11]

Recalling the adoption of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,[12] held on 3 and 4 October 2013, and the commitment by Member States, inter alia, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect victims of trafficking, stressing the need to establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies, and to reinforce cooperation on prevention, the prosecution of traffickers and the protection of victims of trafficking,

Recognizing the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other intergovernmental organizations, within their existing mandates,

Recognizing also that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and taking note with appreciation of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group,

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

Recognizing the need to continue to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons and the need to continue to work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

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[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[11] Resolution 70/174, annex.

[12] Resolution 68/4.

Recognizing also the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices, of Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Stressing the need to protect victims of trafficking from being incarcerated and prosecuted even when States have inadequate or no formal procedures for their identification,

Recognizing that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recognizing also that victims of trafficking are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as national or social origin, and that these forms of discrimination may themselves fuel trafficking in persons, and that women and children without nationality or without birth registration are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

Stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and to reintegrate victims into the community, including by taking into account, where appropriate, the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking [13] and the commentary thereon developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking developed by the United Nations Children's Fund,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to address the problem of trafficking in persons, including women and girls as the most vulnerable group, and encouraging them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Affirming that capacity-building is a very important component in combating trafficking in persons, and in this regard stressing the need to intensify international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, as well as technical assistance for countries aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent all forms of trafficking, including supporting their development programmes,

Taking note of the Khartoum process and its Declaration adopted in Khartoum on 16 October 2014 during the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, coordinated by the African Union, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, which aimed to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation and build capacities in the African countries to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling,

Taking note also of the Second Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015–2018, adopted by States members of the Organization of American States at the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on 4 and 5 December 2014 in Brasilia,

[13] E/2002/68/Add.1.

Recognizing that the Global Plan of Action and the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, aim at raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and at providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[14]

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[15]

Recognizing that, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[5] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[6] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[16] and invites the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Recalls* the holding of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, inter alia, evinced strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons;

4. *Also recalls* its decision to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore decides to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate;

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[14] A/70/94.

[15] A/69/269 and A/70/260.

[16] Resolution 64/293.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, in close cooperation with Member States, to take all appropriate measures to arrange the high-level meeting;

6. *Recalls* its decision to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed annually, and, while welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day, invites all stakeholders to continue to observe the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

7. *Expresses support* for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Office for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group;

9. *Takes note* of the consultative briefing for Member States hosted by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group in January 2015 at United Nations Headquarters on the work and priorities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group in 2015 and beyond;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to continue their activities related to the implementation of relevant international instruments and the Global Plan of Action, and invites Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions to the Office for these purposes, in accordance with the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations;

11. *Invites* Member States to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination and social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children;

12. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons;

13. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as with other relevant special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, especially concerning children, and to condemn these practices and to investigate, prosecute and penalize traffickers and intermediaries while providing protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights, and invites Member States to continue to support those United Nations agencies and international organizations that are actively involved in victim protection;

15. *Notes* the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs and relevant mechanisms on trafficking in persons, held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 May 2014, co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms located all over the world in order to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner and to exchange information and best practices built on different national experiences;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the Trust Fund;

17. *Welcomes* the publication in 2012 and 2014 of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, looks forward to the next such report to be produced by the Office in 2016, pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, and encourages Member States to provide to the Office evidence-based data on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of the removal of organs;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 106

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/490)*]

70/180. United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 69/198 of 18 December 2014 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Bearing in mind that weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms, and bearing in mind also the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

Aware of the devastating impact of new and more dynamic crime trends on the national economies of African States, such as the high levels of transnational organized crime being recorded in Africa, including the utilization of digital technology to commit all types of cybercrime, and aware also of illicit trafficking in cultural property, drugs, precious metals, rhinoceros horns and ivory, of piracy and money-laundering and of the fact that crime is a major obstacle to harmonious and sustainable development in Africa,

Deeply concerned about the growing links, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and recognizing that countering transnational organized crime and terrorism is a common and shared responsibility and that criminal justice procedures will have to be more cost-conscious, timely and expeditious and sensitive to public responses to minimize or eliminate any suspicion of compromise,

Emphasizing that combating crime is a collective endeavour to meet the global challenge of organized crime and that investment of necessary resources in crime prevention is important to that aim and contributes to sustainable development,

[1] A/70/121.

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Noting with concern that in most African countries the existing criminal justice system does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and adequate infrastructure and is therefore ill-equipped to manage the emergence of new crime trends, and acknowledging the challenges that Africa faces in litigation processes and the management of correctional institutions,

Recognizing that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of Governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013–2017), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention and good governance and strengthened justice administration,

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable development as a complement to crime prevention strategies,

Emphasizing the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies,

Welcoming the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study by a consultant of the Economic Commission for Africa prior to the commencement of a full system-wide review process, including the significance of the Institute as a viable mechanism for promoting cooperation among the relevant entities to respond to the crime problem afflicting Africa,

Expressing concern over the continued absence of a director of the Institute, and noting the important role of such senior management positions in ensuring the normal functioning of the Institute,

Noting with concern that the financial situation of the Institute has greatly affected its capacity to deliver services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner, and noting that one of the findings of the preliminary diagnostic study is that the Institute urgently needs to increase its income,

Recalling the detailed description provided in the report of the Secretary-General of funding deficiencies that have severely undermined the Institute's capacity to serve the needs of the region, and recognizing that crime results in the expenditure of a significant amount of resources,

Bearing in mind that the Institute is an important component of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network, and that, without the necessary funds, the Institute will fail to accomplish its vital goals of combating drug trafficking, cybercrime and environmental crimes, among other challenges, as well as its goals of reforming the crucial deficiencies in the region's prosecution system and building effective and strong alliances among law enforcement personnel, professional bodies, academic institutions, individual communities, experts and traditional and civil authorities in order to proactively prevent crime,

Acknowledging the Member States and organizations that have maintained their commitment to the fulfilment of their financial obligations,

1. *Commends* the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote, coordinate and carry out more activities within its core mandate, including regional technical cooperation related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa, despite the resource constraints under which it is operating;

2. *Also commends* the initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in strengthening its working relationship with the Institute by supporting and involving the Institute in the implementation of a number of activities, including those contained in the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013–2017), on strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa;

3. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

4. *Also reiterates* the benefits, in some cases, of the utilization of alternative remedial measures, where appropriate, applying standards of ethical conduct and using local traditions, counselling and other emerging correctional rehabilitation measures, consistent with the obligations of States under international law;

5. *Notes* the efforts of the Institute to establish contacts with organizations in those countries which are promoting crime prevention programmes and its maintenance of close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

6. *Encourages* the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focus attention on the coordination of activities that promote development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies;

7. *Urges* States members of the Institute that have failed to meet their financial pledges to the Institute to pay all or part of those outstanding arrears, taking into consideration that member States are to fund 73 per cent of the approved budget;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Board of the Institute, convened in Lilongwe on 29 May 2015, which outlines the positive conclusion of the review process aimed at reinvigorating the Institute and discusses measures to address the decline in financial support for the programmes of the Institute;

9. *Also welcomes* the introduction by the Institute of a cost-sharing initiative in its execution of various programmes with Member States, partners and United Nations entities;

10. *Urges* all Member States and non-governmental organizations and the international community to continue to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and in the implementation of its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

11. *Urges* all States that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[2] as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[3]

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

12. *Encourages* African States that are not yet members of the Institute to consider becoming member States in order to strengthen the fight against crime and terrorism, which hamper individual and collective development efforts on the continent;

13. *Commends* the continued support provided by the Government of Uganda as host country, including resolving the issue of the ownership of the land on which the Institute is located and facilitating the Institute's collaboration with other stakeholders within Uganda and the region and with international partners;

14. *Also commends* the efforts of the Institute in implementing several programmes in the region, which have contributed, inter alia, to a growing set of coordinated remedial responses to crime on the basis of technical support in facilitating mutual assistance by law enforcement agencies and the emergence of regional jurisdictions;

15. *Encourages* the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each programme country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with existing funds, as well as available capacity, by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to maintain the Institute with the core Professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work closely with the Institute, and requests the Institute to provide the annual report on its activities to the Office as well as to the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the promotion of regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which cannot be dealt with adequately by national action alone;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session with a specific focus on the current and future structural, financial, administrative and operational aspects of the Institute, giving due consideration to intensifying efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate, bearing in mind that the precarious financial situation of the Institute greatly undermines its capacity to deliver services effectively.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

United Nations A/RES/70/181

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/491)*]

70/181. Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which it decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and 69/201 of 18 December 2014, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem",

Recalling further its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016",

1. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/8 of 17 March 2015;[2]

2. *Decides* that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem shall be convened for three days, from 19 to 21 April 2016, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled to be held in March 2016;

3. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the special session shall be as follows:

(*a*) The special session shall consist of a general debate and interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel with the plenary;

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] Ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 8* (E/2015/28), chap. I, sect. C.

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(*b*) The opening of the special session shall include statements by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director-General of the World Health Organization;

(*c*) The general debate shall include statements by the regional groups, Member States, observer States and observers, relevant international organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(*d*) Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the special session in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practice of the General Assembly;

(*e*) In accordance with the rules of procedure and practice developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, the President of the Assembly, in consultation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will take into consideration inputs from other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, shall draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders that may participate in the special session, with due regard to geographical balance;

(*f*) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, shall address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements, including chairing arrangements, speakers and participation, for the following round tables, while considering the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] in line with Assembly resolutions 67/193 and 69/201:

Round table 1: Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"):

(i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;

(ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

Round table 2: Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"):

(i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

(ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

(i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[3] and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

Round table 4: Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

Round table 5: Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy;

(*g*) A summary of the salient points raised during the round tables will be prepared by the Chairs of those round tables, to be presented at the plenary;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken for the session, through the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session, which was established by the Commission by its decision 57/2 of 4 December 2014;[4]

5. *Also requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, and decides that the document, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session,

[3] Resolution 217 A (III).

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8A* (E/2014/28/Add.1), chap. I, sect. B.

should, inter alia, address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction and address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and encourages organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders to continue to fully contribute to the process by actively participating in the preparations by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice;

7. *Encourages* all Member States, observer States and observers to consider being represented at the special session at the highest possible level;

8. *Also encourages* all Member States, observer States and observers to consider the possible participation of youth representatives at the special session;

9. *Reaffirms* its decision, taken in resolution 67/193, to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing regular budget resources;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015